

Project Update: January 2024

Summary the numbers of activities are shown in the table below:

Visiting Sites	Surface Observation	Underwater Observation	Manta Tow Survey	Feeding Trails	Underwater Laser Photogrammetry	Dugong Sighting
4	3	1	1	1	1	2

1. Visiting sites:

A total of four sites are visited: Marsa Hermez, Sharm Alam, Ras Baghdady, and remote area on shore.

2. Surface Observations:

Two by speed boat and one land-based survey.

3. Underwater Observations:

Underwater observations were not available in most sites due to the event of flood in November 2023, where the sands cover the shallow seagrass areas in front of the flooded sites.

Only one site in a remote area is visited based on the prediction model map. This site is located in a shallow coral lagoon within under construction resort. The reef flat is divided into three zones: back reef (seagrasses), mid reef (seagrasses and sandy bottom), and fore reef (rocky and small coral colonies). The water depth above the fore reef is about 120-150 cm in high tide, which allows the dugong to swim over inside the lagoon.

4. Manta Tow Survey:

Only one survey due to the effect of flood on a seagrass area.

5. Feeding Trails:

Small feeding trails of a calf was reported in the remote area, in addition to big width. This evidence confirms the prediction model map of the calving areas.

6. Underwater Laser Photogrammetry:

This technique is used to measure the widths of feeding trails in remote areas.

7. Dugong Sightings:

Using a professional camera Canon EOSRP-24-105 with SLR Lens SP 150-600 F/5-6.3 USD VC G2 150-600, one adult dugong is documented in deep water out of Ras Baghdady, which confirms the effect of flooding on the shallow seagrass. Another dugong was encountered from the land-based survey, which confirms the suitable technique for dugong sighting from long distance using a professional camera.





Dugong encounter at surface in the deep-water during boat survey in front of Ras Baghdady, inside Wadi El Gemal National Park.



Dugong sighting via land-based survey.



Document the seagrass and feeding trails in one site of remote area.



End of mid reef zone of seagrass beside the fore reef zone.